

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00907 121123Z
ACTION CU-03

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0907

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CZ
SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CZECH TEXT OF CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC
EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

REF: 76 PRAGUE 3439

1. CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS PROPOSED SEVERAL SLIGHT
AMENDMENTS TO CZECH-LANGUAGE TEXT OF EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. THESE
AMENDMENTS APPEAR TO US TO DO NO MORE THAN BRING LANGUAGE OF
AGREEMENT INTO LINE WITH CONTEMPORARY CZECH USAGE AND DO NOT
AFFECT SUBSTANCE. NO CHANGES IN ENGLISH TEXT WERE SUGGESTED.

2. IN ARTICLE 2, LINE 3 OF CZECH TEXT, CZECHS WOULD PREFER TO
TRANSLATE "MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING," A PHRASE WHICH DOES NOT
EXIST AS SUCH IN CZECH, SIMPLY AS "MEMORANDA." THE AMENDED
PHRASE WOULD BE: "MEMORAND O VZAJEMNE VYHODNE VEDECKE A
TECHNICKE SPOLUPRACI." "O POROZUMENI" WOULD BE DROPPED AFTER
"MEMORAND." THIS ALTERATION SEEMS FAIR ENOUGH TO US.

3. TWO CHANGES IN ARTICLE 3, PARAGRAPH A: THE CZECHS
WOULD LIKE TO TRANSLATE THE ENGLISH "INSTRUCTOR" AS "ASISTENT,"
(ASISTENTU IN CZECH GENITIVE), AND "SCHOLARS" AS "VEDCU" RATHER
THAN "UCENCU," WHICH IS AN ARCHAIC TERM. NEITHER CHANGE SEEMS
VITAL TO US. "ASISTENT," WE UNDERSTAND, IS A CLOSE EQUIVALENT
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OF THE U.S. ACADEMIC RANK, "INSTRUCTOR."

4. IN ARTICLE 3, PARAGRAPH B, THE CZECHS WOULD TRANSLATE THE
ENGLISH "UNIVERSITIES" BY THE EXPRESSION "HIGHER SCHOOLS,"
(VYSOKE SKOLY), THE COMMON GENERIC TERM FOR EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS OF THE THIRD LEVEL, INCLUDING CHARLES UNIVERSITY, BUT
ALSO, FOR EXAMPLE, THE HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS.

5. IN ARTICLE 3, PARAGRAPH G, CZECHS WOULD TRANSLATE "ECOLOGY" AS "ENVIRONMENT" (ZIVOTNI PROSTREDI) TO AVOID SAYING "EKOLOGIE," A TERM LESS USED IN CZECH THAN IN ENGLISH.

6. A SIMPLE CORRECTION IN ARTICLE 8(F): THE PROPER PHRASE IS "POVAZOVAT ZA VHODNE" RATHER THAN "POVAZOVAT NA VHODNE."

7. OUR FOREIGN MINISTRY INTERLOCUTOR SAID THE SLOVAK GOVERNMENT FINISHED ITS REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT TEXT ON MARCH 30, AND THAT THE CZECH GOVERNMENT WAS TO HAVE APPROVED IT APRIL 6. THE MINISTRY NOW IS WAITING FOR U.S. CONCURRENCE WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGES, IN ADDITION TO OUR APPROVAL OF THE OVERALL TRANSLATION, BEFORE SENDING A "PERFECT" TEXT TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FOR ITS APPROVAL.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: HAS THE COMPARISON OF THE ENGLISH AND CZECH TEXTS BEEN COMPLETED AND ARE THE CHANGES PROPOSED ABOVE ACCEPTABLE TO U.S.?
BYRNE

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